



Ask Rose Ariadne
<http://www.askroseariadne.com>

Wiccan Religion

There was once a time, when magickal beings started appearing on earth; wise ones who knew that since they came from nature and would return to nature it was urgent that they didn't affect the delicate balance of all that constituted our environment on this paradise. They revered the land, the seasons, celebrated the Sun and the Moon and held all animals sacred to their hearts.

As civilizations grew and selfishness and greed enveloped the world, wars and destruction became common and human beings found weapons to kill each other and thought of themselves as civilized and advanced societies. They created new religions and almost destroyed the old magickal cultures.

Deep in their hearts, some of these beings still held on to old beliefs and traditions which were the secret to the survival of our universe. These religions were called "pagan religions" by the ignorant warlords who used the new religions to conquer and destroy magickal people they called "savages" and "heathens". They also tried to kill and burn people who did not believe in these new religions and called them Satanic or evil to incite the common people to destroy them. Further, they came up with the idea of "Hell" where people would go to, if they did not believe in these new religions.

However, magick always prevails. In spite of the greed and ignorance of these so called "advanced" religions, some of the wiser, gentler, nature worshipping religions survived. They didn't bomb each other, they didn't create havoc and they didn't pollute the world. They respected the environment, taking only enough, leaving plenty for others and never breaking the laws of nature.





Wicca is one of those nature loving religions that was practiced in Northern Europe before the advent of the middle-eastern Judeo-Christian religions and is now on its way to a revival in many parts of the world.

The Wiccans celebrate the cycles of nature and the four seasons, the Sunrise and Sunset as well as the phases of the Moon. They worship the Female Goddess as well as the Male God, and believe that all of us have the power of the cosmic energy that created us. "Wicca" is the old English term for witch. All ancient religions practiced some form of magick. Most of the witches worshipped nature and looked upon all creation as sacred.

Unlike some of the other religions which accept a male God and give up everything to HIS will, Wiccans believe that the Goddess and God are divine powers WHO guide us in our search for spiritual harmony and our urge to CREATE.

Nature had to take a backseat to wars and politics while fundamentalists attacked each other with bombs and chemical weapons to manipulate nature for selfish purposes. The answer to this catastrophic behavior is simple – to return to a peaceful, nature loving way of life.

Natural religions are being accepted back into cultures as a response to the tremendous damage done by modern religions on the earth's resources and environment. Wicca seems to be one of the answers to such a dilemma.

Anyone can join the Wiccan religion. Although there are groups of Wiccans (covens) that make rules and initiate others into this religion, there are no basic requirements to join this religion other than a yearning to live a life of peace and joy in harmony with nature.

Anyone wishing to join the Wicca religion can read and study its history, principles and practice, perform the self-initiation ceremony and start practicing the religion immediately.

Wiccans usually have certain objects that are used for rituals and spells. To increase concentration, objects such as candles, incense, large pots (cauldrons), cups (chalice) and natural treasures such as sticks, stones, wood, etc are used. The symbol of a 5 pointed star, called a pentagram is especially significant to this religion and is used in rituals and ceremonies. To emphasize the importance of these ceremonies, Wiccans use ceremonial robes and wands. There are many books and websites on the Wiccan tools and sacred objects used in rituals.

Wiccans believe that whatever we do in life, whether it has a positive or negative outcome, we get it back three-fold. This is sometimes called the





Threefold Law. Because of this belief, Wiccans always think before doing harm to anyone.

Magick is the method of directing energy that is around us to produce a pre-determined outcome. Magick is a command that is directed to the world with the expectation of immediate action. It's a reinforcement of an expected outcome, without a hint of a doubt that it may not happen. Magick not a plea to an all powerful God, it's a command to the divine Goddess of nature who is always ready to make it happen.

*Tis the witching hour of night,
Orbed is the moon and bright,
And the stars they glisten, glisten,
Seeming with bright eyes to listen
For what listen they?
John Keats (1795 - 1821)*

Wicca is a healing tradition that is based on the love of the Earth. Herbs and healing crystals as well as stones are usually used in rituals. The more they practice the religion, the better they get at understanding how spirituality can restore the world. Wiccans can help heal people with herbal remedies and other holistic healing methods such as Reiki and Meditation.

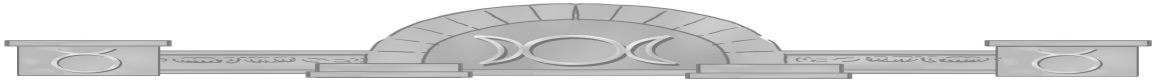
Wiccans get together at certain times of the year, such as solstices and equinoxes, May Day, Halloween, certain phases of the Moon and Sun as well as Fall and Spring to celebrate nature and pass down the traditions with rituals such as dancing and invocations.

These celebrations are usually outdoors at night and with the formation of circles to denote the cycle or spherical energies of protection and power. Some individuals referred to as the "High Priest" or High Priestess" may take parts in ceremonies. They are usually people who have been practicing this religion for a long time and can help new Wiccans with their initiation rituals.

Wiccans are everyday people who may hold important, technologically advanced jobs. Many Wiccans choose to remain private for fear of hypocrisy from the people following other religions and the aggressive reaction towards pagan faiths.

Above all, Wiccans live in harmony with the universal energy which created life as we know it. By understanding and moving with the rhythms of nature, we can live in harmony with all of creation while helping to restore and preserve it.





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